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Parks and Recreation Minutes 09/18/2001

Tuesday, September 18, 2001 at 7:30 pm
Meeting Minutes - Approved

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:45 PM in the Whittemore Robbins House. Commission members in attendance included Bernice Jones, Don Vitters, Joe Carabello and Mark McCabe. Also present were Superintendent of Recreation Joseph Connelly, Mark Shea of the Department of Public Works, Patsy Kraemer of Human Resources and Philip Farrington, Town Manager.

Public present included: Leslie Mayer, Joseph Hart and Stephen Moniak.

Arlington Sports Center

Senator Havern has secured \$315,000 from the state to be used for improvements to the Sports Center. The most significant problem is the lack of heat. Suggested improvements include blowers in the entry and radiant heat over spectators. Proposals have been received from three engineering firms to evaluate the problem, engineer a solution and oversee construction.

The Commission recommended that the Rink Improvement Committee be responsible for managing the project with the assistance of members of the Commission including Mark McCabe, Don Vitters and Tom Caccavaro.

Resignation of Superintendent Joseph Connelly

Joseph Connelly has submitted his resignation as Superintendent of Recreation and accepted the position of Director of Recreation for the Town of Winchester. His last full day will be Friday, September 28, 2001. Joe's departure combined with the loss of Donna Sullivan, Recreation Supervisor who is taking maternity leave and the Recreation Department administrative assistant will leave the Department short-handed. Former Superintendent of Recreation Debbie Hayes has agreed to work half-time in the afternoon. Additional coverage will be provided by town hall staff.

An ad has been placed in the paper seeking a replacement for Joe Connelly. Qualified candidates will be interviewed by the town with a goal of finding a replacement by mid-November. A fare-well party has been scheduled for Thursday, October 4th from 5:00- 7:00 p.m. at the Sports Center.

Poets Corner Batting Cage

Arlington Little League representative Joseph Hart requested permission to install an underground electrical line for a pitching machine. The pitching machine would be located in the newly constructed batting cage adjacent to the tennis courts. The feed would originate at Dow and Wadsworth Street and run approximately 300 feet with 18 inches of cover. Only major league managers would have access to the electrical box. The Arlington Baseball Association (ABA) will confirm in writing that the costs of installing and maintaining the electrical line would be paid by the ABA.

Mr. McCabe motioned to approve the request seconded by Mr. Carabello and approved 5-0.

Hardy School Playground

The Commission reviewed a memo from the Town Manager requesting a vote of Town Meeting to transfer \$125,000 from the Antenna Fund to pay for a portion of the playground next to the school property. The Antenna Fund was established several years ago to help pay for maintenance and improvements of the Town playgrounds and

open space.

The Commission agreed to support the transfer of funds to pay for a portion of the hardy School playground.

FY 2003 Capital Request

The Commission reviewed the capital requests to the Capital Improvement Committee for outdoor facilities under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Commission for FY2003-FY2007. The Commission confirmed the request of \$500,000 for Spy Pond Shores and \$10,000 Feasibility Study for FY 2003.

Project Update

The Commission reviewed the status of the various capital projects that have been funded for design and/or construction as follows.

- *Magnolia Field* was slice seeded in the spring but weed continued to grow. The field will be treated again this fall and is ready for use.
 - *Thorndike Field* is under construction and completion is scheduled for the end of October.
 - *Parallel Playground* is under construction and completion is scheduled for the end of October.
 - *Hills Hill* soccer field was sodded this summer and is complete and ready for use.
 - *Cutter Playground* was completed in July. Remaining items include the installation of two benches, the memorial monument and some minor repairs to the fencing and paving by the DPW.
 - *Hills Pond* the bids for the repair of the stonewall at Hills Pond in Menotomy Rocks Park are due on October 1, 2001.
 - *Reservoir* the town is awaiting a decision from the DEM regarding the 500-year storm elevation before proceeding with final design.
 - *Hardy Playground* is under construction as part of the school renovation project and completion is scheduled for the end of October.
 - *Crosby Playground* Leonard Design has completed the survey, schematic design and cost estimate. Planning will proceed through the end of the year with construction starting in the Spring of 2002.
 - *Peirce School* the landscape architect for the Peirce School will work directly with the Park Commission on the design of the new playground.
 - *Summer Street Field* - the survey has been completed and Leonard Design has started design of the reconstruction of Summer Street Field. Construction is expected to start in the Fall of 2002.
 - *Spy Pond Shore* a draft RFP was reviewed for the design of Phase I of Spy Pond Shore. The RFP will be sent to qualified landscape architects for response in late October 2001.
 - *Robbins Farm* - a draft RFP was reviewed for the design and construction of Phase I of Robbins Farm. The RFP will be sent to qualified landscape architects for response in late October 2001.

Summer Street Road Improvements

Property taking and curb cut revisions will be required as part of the Summer Street reconstruction. Affected areas include Newland/Summer Street intersection and the entrance to the Sports Center.

The Commission adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Joseph J. Connelly, Supt. of Recreation